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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2007: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress achieved by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2007. It covers the activities of the Population Division dealing with the analysis of fertility, mortality and international migration; world population estimates and projections; population policies; population and development interrelationship; and monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information. The report provides highlights of the major activities of the Population Division, which comprise the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documents and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet.

The objective of the subprogramme in population is to promote policy debate on current and foreseeable population issues at the national and international levels with a view to enabling Member States to address population and development issues effectively. The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

The Commission may wish to take note of this report.

* E/CN.9/2008/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The subprogramme on population in the United Nations Secretariat is the responsibility of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The programme of work takes into account the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly[1] on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[2] and the outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.[4] The programme of work also responds to the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, as well as relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, the objective of the subprogramme in population was to promote policy debate on current and foreseeable population issues at the national and international levels, with a view to enabling Member States to address effectively population and development issues. The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

3. Specifically, the expected accomplishments for the subprogramme in population, as presented in section 9, Economic and Social Affairs, the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/6 (Sect. 9)), were:

(a) Population issues remain high in the international agenda;

(b) Enhanced awareness in the international community and among Member States of progress made in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with agencies, funds, programmes and other bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in the follow-up activities to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2007, grouped by thematic area. The report provides a substantive summary of the activities and outputs of the Population Division, which comprise the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documents and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet. A list of activities and outputs is contained in the annex to this report.

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[1] General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. In the area of fertility, the Population Division published two databases (World Fertility Data 2006[5] and World Marriage Data 2006[6]), which contain period and cohort indicators of fertility and marriage for 192 countries or areas of the world. The Division also worked on a major recurrent publication, the *World Fertility Report 2006*, which presents for each country or area a fertility profile combining information and data on fertility, nuptiality, family planning and population policies. The report also contains summary tables and a substantive analysis of the levels and trends for the different variables. The data show that fertility has declined over the last three decades in most countries of the world, although high levels of fertility are still prevalent in many least developed countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa. High levels of fertility are associated with low levels of contraceptive prevalence and marriage at younger ages.

7. In addition, the Division prepared a wallchart on *World Fertility Patterns 2007*,[7] which presents the most recent data from official sources available on fertility for the 195 countries or areas with at least 100,000 inhabitants in 2007, together with fertility indicators for an earlier date around 1970. Particular attention is given to the adolescent birth rate, which is generally higher in developing countries. There are 55 developing countries with a very high adolescent birth rate, defined as over 90 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19: 33 in Africa, 15 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7 in Asia. However, adolescent birth rates declined in 103 of the 122 developing countries where data on trends during the last three decades were available.

8. In the area of family planning studies, work was undertaken on a new wallchart and a new database on World Contraceptive Use 2007. They provide a statistical overview of contraceptive use and unmet need for family planning based on the latest available data. Information available on contraceptive use is available for 169 countries or areas covering 99.7 per cent of the world's total number of women aged 15-49 who are married or in union. The average contraceptive prevalence is 63 per cent for the world as a whole, but with large contrasts between regions. Contraceptive prevalence is particularly low in sub-Saharan Africa, with only 22 per cent of women of reproductive age who are married or in union using contraception. There are only eight countries outside Africa with contraceptive prevalence currently below 30 per cent. There are also large differences between countries regarding the contraceptive methods used. For the world as a whole, the most common methods are female sterilization, intrauterine devices (IUD) and the pill. Sterilization is particularly popular in Latin American and the Caribbean, China and India; IUD use is high in Eastern Asia, Eastern Europe and Northern Africa; and use of the pill is high in Western Europe and Northern Africa. Traditional methods, usually less effective, are still widely used in Southern and Eastern Europe, Western Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Data regarding unmet need for family planning are not as widely available: they cover only 97 countries or areas. The largest proportions of women with unmet need for family planning are found in Africa. Generally, countries with higher levels of contraceptive prevalence have lower levels of unmet need.

[5] POP/DB/Fert/Rev.2007.
[6] POP/DB/Mar/Rev.2007.
[7] ST/ESA/SER.A/269.

9. In 2007, to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015 became a new target in the Millennium Development Goals framework, following the recommendations made at the 2005 World Summit. The Population Division contributed to the identification of reproductive health indicators for the target and became the responsible agency for monitoring three of the four indicators adopted, namely, contraceptive prevalence, the adolescent birth rate and unmet need for family planning. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has joint responsibility for the latter.

III. Mortality and health

10. In the area of mortality and health, the Population Division made substantial progress in the compilation of data suitable for the estimation of mortality, including documentation of data sources. An inventory of data sources is being published in the *World Mortality Report 2007*. The Report also contains estimates for several mortality indicators presented for 195 countries or areas and referring to quinquenniums within the period 1950-2005. These estimates are derived from the results of *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*. An analysis of mortality levels and trends for the major areas is presented in the Report, together with an overview of the availability of data relevant to the estimation of mortality. The data contained in the Report were issued in digital form on a CD-ROM.

11. The Population Division undertook the preparation of a wallchart entitled *World Mortality 2007*,[8] which displays information on mortality levels and related issues. The chart presents estimates of several mortality indicators relative to the period 2000-2005 such as: infant and under-five mortality, the probabilities of survival between specific ages, and life expectancy at birth by sex. Estimates are presented for 195 countries or areas and several country aggregates. In addition, the chart presents estimates of the maternal mortality ratio, HIV prevalence, and the number of deaths related to HIV, all referring to 2005. The shares of all deaths attributable to major groups of causes of death and referring to 2002 are also presented.

12. The Population Division published in 2007 the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Current Issues in the Estimation of Adult Mortality[9] convened by the Division in New York on 26 and 27 October 2006. The meeting discussed the methodological advances made in modelling adult mortality and the challenges faced in building a comprehensive database on mortality data. Participants included experts from academic institutions and research centres in Africa, Europe and Northern America, as well as representatives of the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Population Division, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).

13. During 2007, progress was made in developing models of mortality patterns by age to fit the incomplete information available for countries with deficient data. The models were developed on the basis of historical and contemporary empirical data. The new models were tested by comparing their fit to actual data with that obtained

[8] ST/ESA/SER.A/271.
[9] ESA/P/WP.203.

by using other models. Strategies to improve the fit of the new models are in development.

14. In order to facilitate the use of the various types of data available for the estimation of mortality, the Population Division, in collaboration with the Department of Demography at the University of California, Berkeley, has been developing a database to store both the data and the metadata describing them. Data generated by vital registration systems, population surveillance systems, population censuses and surveys are all being compiled. The database will provide a valuable resource for future international studies on mortality and health.

IV. International migration

15. The Population Division worked on the preparation of the *World Migration Report 2006*, which provides migration profiles for all major areas, regions and countries of the world for 1995 and 2005. The migration profiles include estimates of the international migrant stock, the number of refugees, the net migration rate, and the amount of remittances, as well as standardized information on the views and policies of Governments on international migration. The profiles also include information on the status of ratification of the seven United Nations instruments relevant to international migrants. The profiles provide two population projection scenarios for 2050, one assuming a continuation of current international migration trends and one assuming zero migration after 2005. The report highlights a number of key findings. First, the number of international migrants reached almost 191 million in 2005, some 3 per cent of the world population. Second, developing countries in 2004 received some US$ 145 billion in migrant remittances, almost two thirds of the global amount of remittances that migrants sent home. Third, a number of Governments have taken measures to facilitate the inflow of both low-skilled and highly skilled international migrants. Recently, three international instruments of relevance to international migration entered into force, including the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[10] (2003), the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children[11] (2003), supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[12] and the 2000 Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air[13] (2004), supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The *World Migration Report 2006* also includes recent reports of the Secretary-General and General Assembly resolutions in the area of international migration and development.

16. The Population Division organized the Sixth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, held in New York on 26 and 27 November 2007. Some 80 participants exchanged information on current and planned activities in the area of international migration and exchanged best practices and future plans on the use of surveys in collecting data relevant for the study of international migration. The meeting also discussed the follow-up to the first meeting of the Global Forum on

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[11] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II.
[12] Ibid., annex I.
[13] Ibid., annex III.

Migration and Development (Brussels, 9-11 July 2007), based on a presentation by Ambassador Régine De Clercq, who had been the Executive Director of that event. Esteban B. Conejos, Jr., Under-Secretary for Migrant Worker Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, who is in charge of organizing the second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, informed the participants at the Sixth Coordination Meeting of the status of preparations for the second meeting of the Global Forum.

17. The Population Division published in October 2007 the proceedings of the Fifth Coordination Meeting, held in New York on 20 and 21 November 2006.[14] Those of the Sixth Coordination Meeting will be published in 2008.

18. The Population Division is developing a database containing data for as many countries as possible on the number of international migrants enumerated by censuses or population registers and classified by age, sex and country of origin. The database will facilitate the assessment of international migration levels, trends and characteristics which is part of the regular work programme of the Population Division. In carrying out this activity, the Population Division has been collaborating with the United Nations Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank, both of which provided some of the data included in the database. UNICEF and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are providing financial support to expedite the preparation of estimates of the migrant stock by age and sex.

19. The Population Division continued to provide substantive and administrative support to Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development. The Special Representative is the main link between the United Nations and the Global Forum on Migration and Development, a State-led process for the follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006. The work of Mr. Sutherland is supported by a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

20. In conjunction with the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which was organized and hosted by the Government of Belgium from 9 to 11 July 2007, the Population Division organized an Internet-based Marketplace for International Migration and Development Services. In total, 18 projects were considered in discussions between Government officials and representatives of intergovernmental and civil society organizations. This tool allowed those presenting projects and prospective funding partners to match their interests and exchange information about each particular project in advance of the meeting of the Global Forum. The Marketplace continues to be operational and will be used once more in connection with the second meeting of the Global Forum, to be held in Manila in October 2008.

21. The Population Division provided support to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in his capacity as member of the Global Migration Group (GMG), a consultative mechanism created by the Secretary-General for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive and coherent approach in the overall institutional response to international migration. The Population Division also

[14] ESA/P/WP.204.

participated actively in working-level meetings of the Global Migration Group. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs held the chair of the Group during the second half of 2007. Under the chairmanship of the Department, the Global Migration Group undertook some initiatives with a view to contributing to the second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The Group admitted four new members: the coordinator of the regional commissions and the heads of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNICEF and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

22. Population Division staff made presentations and provided other contributions to several conferences, meetings and forums on international migration and development, in particular the Third Seminar on Immigration and Co-development, organized by the Department for Immigration and Cooperation of the Regional Government of the Balearic Islands, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 8 and 9 March 2007; the Regional Symposium on Foreign Workers in the Gulf Cooperation Council: Towards a Common Strategy, held in Doha from 17-19 April 2007; the Migration and Development Conference, Washington, D.C., 23 and 24 May 2007, organized by the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Centre and the Migration Policy Institute, Washington, D.C., 23 and 24 May 2007; the Follow-up Meeting of the Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development, organized by the Government of Spain, Madrid, 21 June 2007; and the Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Censuses and Surveys to Measure International Migration, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division, New York, 24-28 September 2007. The Population Division also participated in the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development; and organized a breakfast seminar on the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, New York, 28-30 March 2007.

V. World population projections

23. The preparation of biennial population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the mandate of the Population Division. The results of this activity have considerable impact both inside and outside the United Nations system. The official United Nations population estimates and projections are a key input for several analytical reports prepared by the Population Division, including *World Population Ageing 2007*, the *World Fertility Report 2007*, the *World Mortality Report 2007* and the *World Migration Report 2006*. In addition, key publications on data and indicators prepared by entities of the United Nations system use as input the official United Nations population estimates and projections prepared by the Population Division. Entities relying on population data generated by the Division include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Bank. Researchers, academics and the media also make ample use of the Division's population estimates and projections.

24. In 2007, the Population Division issued the results of the *2006 Revision of World Population Prospects* in the form of an interactive online database, two CD-ROMs and a working paper containing data and analytical highlights of the

2006 Revision. The *Highlights* noted that the world population will likely increase by 2.5 billion over the next 43 years, passing from the current 6.7 billion to 9.2 billion in 2050. This increase is equivalent to the overall number of people in the world in 1950 and it will be absorbed mostly by the less developed regions, whose population is projected to rise from 5.4 billion in 2007 to 7.9 billion in 2050. In contrast, the population of the more developed regions is expected to remain largely unchanged at 1.2 billion and would have declined were it not for the projected net migration from developing to developed countries, which is expected to average 2.3 million persons per year after 2010. The CD-ROMs for the *2006 Revision* were produced in two versions — as a comprehensive collection of all data sets in Excel format[15] and as an extended collection[16] of data sets. The latter includes interpolated estimates for each demographic indicator presented in both Excel and database format. The results of the *2006 Revision* are also released in three volumes: *Comprehensive Tables* (vol. I),[17] *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population* (vol. II)[18] and *Analytical Report* (vol. III). Volumes I and II will be issued early in 2008. These volumes present or analyse the population estimates and projections for 229 countries or areas of the world over the period 1950-2050. A wallchart presenting key indicators derived from the 2006 Revision is also being released in 2008.

25. The Population Division has completed the *2007 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects* and its results will be released early in 2008. Data on urban and rural populations are being made available through an interactive database accessible on the Internet. A publication presenting the Highlights of the 2007 Revision will be completed early in 2008, together with a CD-ROM presenting selected output from the *2007 Revision*.

26. In 2007, the Population Division began the development of a database integrating all empirical data used in preparing the Revisions of *World Population Prospects*. Availability of this database will add efficiency to the preparation of new revisions and will improve users' access to information on the sources of the data used. The Population Division also continued to work on improving the methodology for the preparation of its estimates and projections of national populations and populations in urban and rural places as well as in cities.

27. The Population Division collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Planning Council of Qatar in organizing a Regional Workshop on Demographic Projections in ESCWA member countries. The workshop, held in Doha from 20 to 24 May 2007, was attended by over 20 representatives from national statistical offices directly involved in the preparation of population data, the training being provided by staff members of the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the United States Census Bureau, among others. This hands-on workshop introduced the participants to population projections methodology, including the cohort-component method, and

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[15] *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, Comprehensive Dataset* (CD-ROM version) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.8).

[16] *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, Extended Dataset in Excel and ASCII Formats* (CD-ROM version) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.7).

[17] *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*, vol. I, *Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.2).

[18] *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*, vol. II, *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.3).

offered step-by-step instructions on how to implement projections using different software packages. The importance of using reliable estimates as the starting point of any sound projection was also stressed throughout the workshop. In that regard, training was also provided on how to use available software, including MORTPAK, a demographic software package developed by the Population Division.

28. Population Division staff participated in several inter-agency technical meetings on demographic estimations and projections, in particular: a peer-review scientific meeting on methodological issues and adult mortality estimates of the 2006-2007 Iraq Family Health Survey (IFHS), organized by the Ministry of Health of Iraq and the Iraq office of WHO and held in Amman from 3 to 5 July 2007; and the annual meeting of the UNAIDS/WHO Reference Group on Estimates, Modelling and Projections, convened in Baltimore, Maryland, on 12 July 2007 to deal with incorporating the latest AIDS modelling methodological developments in future releases of the *World Population Prospects* and improving estimation of orphanhood due to AIDS and non-AIDS causes.

VI. Population policies

29. The Population Division completed the 2007 edition of *World Population Policies*, the biennial survey of the views and policies of Governments on several population and development issues. The study found that a majority of Governments — 93 per cent of the Governments of developing countries and 81 per cent of those of developed countries — viewed HIV/AIDS as the most significant demographic issue facing them. Among developing countries, high mortality in childhood and high maternal mortality were the second and third most important issues. In developed countries, in addition to HIV/AIDS, major population concerns were low fertility, population ageing, and the relatively small or declining numbers of persons of working age. Developing countries were also concerned about their population of working age but mainly because they needed to create enough jobs for their rapidly growing labour forces. In contrast, developed countries were concerned about the potential shortage of workers as continued low fertility and population ageing were leading to declining numbers of people of working age. A database presenting the data analysed in the Report will be issued on CD-ROM and may be downloaded from the Population Division website.

30. The Population Division completed a wallchart entitled *Population and HIV/AIDS 2007*.[19] Previous editions of the wallchart had been issued in 2001 and 2005. The wallchart includes the most recent information on HIV/AIDS for all countries in the world, including Government measures implemented in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the number of people living with HIV, adult HIV prevalence, the number of deaths due to AIDS and the number of AIDS orphans. Additional data include life expectancy at birth and total population in 2015 with and without AIDS, condom use and antiretroviral coverage. In 2005, over 35 million people had been living with HIV. The search for effective strategies to halt the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic remains at the top of the international agenda. In countries highly affected by the epidemic, all population and development indicators have been adversely affected by it. The data show that most countries have introduced policies that include comprehensive prevention strategies (care, support

[19] ST/ESA/SER.A/270.

and treatment) among their major components. Blood screening, information and education campaigns, provision of antiretroviral treatment, non-discriminatory policies and distribution of condoms are some of the specific measures being pursued.

31. As part of its efforts to ensure the proper monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Population Division undertook preparations to launch the *United Nations Tenth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development* in 2008. The *Inquiry*, which will be sent to all permanent missions to the United Nations in New York in 2008, requests Governments to furnish information on their views and policies with respect to population and development issues. The *Inquiry* is sent to all States Members of the United Nations and non-Member States. During 2008 and 2009, the responses to the *Inquiry* will be analysed and the results incorporated into a number of publications issued by the Population Division.

VII. Population and development

32. The Population Division published the volume *World Population Ageing 2007*,[20] which updates and expands a previous report released in 2002 at the time of the Second World Assembly on Ageing. The Report provides a description of global trends in population ageing and includes key indicators of the ageing process for each of the major areas, regions and countries of the world. Those derived from population estimates and projections are consistent with the results of the *2004 Revision of World Population Prospects*.[21] The Report shows that the number of older persons in the world has surpassed 700 million and that the group of older persons is the fastest growing segment of the world population, being projected nearly to triple and reach 2 billion persons in 2050. Marked differences exist between the proportions of persons aged 60 years or over in the more developed and the less developed regions: older persons account for more than one fifth of the population of the more developed regions and for just about 8 per cent of the population in the less developed regions. However, the pace of ageing will be significantly faster in the less developed regions over the coming decades. In addition, because women live longer than men, women constitute the majority of older persons, and since they also have lower propensities to remarry, older women are more likely than older men to live alone. Globally, about 20 per cent of women and nearly 8 per cent of men live alone.

33. The Population Division published the proceedings of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Social and Economic Implications of Changing Population Age Structures,[22] held in Mexico City from 31 August to 2 September 2005. The proceedings contain a report of the meeting as well as edited versions of the papers presented by invited experts. Four main topics were discussed during the Meeting: the demographic dividend; intergenerational transfers in the context of changing age structures; the effects of population ageing at the macrolevel, including social security; and the impact of ageing on the health system. The discussions recognized that there is great diversity in the age structures of different

[20] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.5.

[21] United Nations publication, Sales Nos. E.05.XIII.5, E.05.XIII.6 and E.05.XIII.7.

[22] ESA/P/WP.201.

populations, but that rapid change is taking place nearly everywhere. In most countries of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, the proportion of children has been falling and the proportion in the working ages has been rising, thus producing demographic conditions favourable for economic growth — a "demographic dividend". Developed countries already have relatively old populations and are coming to the end of the period over which the proportion of persons of working age has been rising. In contrast, many African countries still have rapidly growing populations with a high proportion of dependent children. Over the next four decades, the proportion of older persons will increase rapidly in all regions of the world, with important implications for the pace of economic growth, the sustainability of pension and social security systems and the functioning and escalating costs of health systems. The experts also considered policy options for taking advantage of the demographic dividend and for mitigating the problems arising from changing age structures in different socio-economic and political contexts.

34. The Population Division made substantial contributions to several chapters of the *World Economic and Social Survey 2007*,[23] one of the flagship publications of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which focused on "Development in an ageing world". The *Survey* addressed issues of changing age structures, gender, mortality, health and long-term care in the context of population ageing. The *Survey* stressed that population ageing will continue over several decades and that, although the proportion of older persons is currently higher in developed than in developing countries, a majority of older persons in the world already live in developing countries. By 2050, about 80 per cent of older persons will live in developing countries. The working-age population and the older population are themselves becoming older, a phenomenon produced by declining fertility and the substantial increases in life expectancy that most countries have experienced over past decades. Advance planning is required to ensure the sustainable financing of social security and health systems throughout the world, especially in countries where coverage by social protection programmes is still low.

35. The Population Division collaborated with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in organizing and undertaking applied research on population ageing, intergenerational transfers and social protection in five countries of the region (Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay). The research aims to establish a comparable statistical basis on inter-age reallocations and transfers, following standards and methodology newly developed by an international research network led by the University of California at Berkeley and the East-West Center in Honolulu. The data produced are being used to assess, in as comprehensive and detailed a fashion as possible, the sources for financing lifetime consumption for different generations; the effect of population ageing on life-cycle reallocation systems, and the intergenerational equity of public transfer programmes.

[23] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.C.1.

VIII. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

A. Monitoring of population trends and policies

36. The annual world population monitoring report produced by the Population Division for the Commission on Population and Development in 2007 (E/CN.9/2007/3) was devoted to the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development, the special theme of the fortieth session of the Commission.

37. The Population Division has also prepared the world population monitoring report for the forty-first session of the Commission. This report (E/CN.9/2008/3) focuses on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development.

B. Dissemination of population information and data

38. During 2007, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website in order to ensure timely access by Government officials and civil society to population information. The Population Division website provides, among other things, information on recently issued Population Division publications. All or selected parts of publications are posted on the website, including highlights, key findings, papers presented at meetings, proceedings of meetings, population reports, wallcharts, data sets and interactive databases. The site also provides information about the Commission on Population and Development, including the official documentation for its sessions and guidance for non-governmental organizations wishing to participate in the work of the Commission.

39. The Population Division also maintains a website (http://www.unmigration.org) which serves as a portal to the numerous international migration activities related to the work of the Population Division, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

40. Complementing the Population Division website in providing easy and timely access to population information is the United Nations Population Information Network. The Network is a portal to the wealth of population information and data available throughout the United Nations system. Analysis of traffic to the Network website shows that the Network is a major channel for the dissemination of the population information generated by the United Nations, with the annual number of visits totalling about 400,000.

41. The Population Division continues to maintain an e-mail announcement service, alerting subscribers to the release of new Population Division publications and data sets. The service currently has over 1,400 subscribers, located in developed countries and in over 70 developing countries. Information on Population Division activities and outputs of particular relevance to developing countries is also distributed regularly through extensive mailing lists, reaching a variety of constituencies.

42. MORTPAK for Windows, the Population Division's software package for demographic estimation, continued to be disseminated worldwide for teaching and research purposes.

Annex

Publications and other materials and expert group meetings prepared or organized by the Population Division*

(1 January-31 December 2007)

Expert group meetings

Sixth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, New York, 26 and 27 November 2007.

Research studies

World Population Ageing 2007. ST/ESA/SER.A/260. Sales No. E.07.XIII.5.

Report of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Social and Economic Implications of Changing Population Age Structures, Mexico City, 31 August-2 September 2005. ESA/P/WP.201.

World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision — Highlights. ESA/P/WP.202.

Report of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Current Issues in the Estimation of Adult Mortality. New York, 26 and 27 October 2006. ESA/P/WP.203.

Proceedings of the Fifth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, New York, 20 and 21 November 2006. ESA/P/WP.204.

Databases

World Fertility Data 2006. CD-ROM. POP/DB/Fert/Rev.2007.

World Marriage Data 2006. CD-ROM. POP/DB/Mar/Rev.2007.

World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision — Comprehensive Dataset. ST/ESA/SER.A/265. Sales No. E.07.XIII.8.

World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision — Extended Dataset. ST/ESA/SER.A/266. Sales No. E.07.XIII.7.

World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision. Data online: http://esa.un.org/unpp/.

Wallcharts

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* Not including reports issued as parliamentary documentation.